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October 3, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I have just received your letter of October 2nd. I noticed that Mr. Collens and Mr. Lyman did not seem to hitch very well, but I think it was a case of misunderstanding and that after they had worked together a little they would get along all right. I am glad to know that Mr. Lyman would like to undertake the building and on such favorable terms. I still feel that it would be entirely safe to let him do it, and that probably we would save money. At any rate, you would know that you got in the building everything you paid for. I

It would mean less work for you to let it by contract and there would be the advantage of knowing at the start just what it would cost. I think we are going to get some better bids this time, within the amount named, and I should hope that we could build it of stone all the way around and have enough left for the organ. By the way, I have been thinking lately that that organ ought to have a tablet with Mrs. Mead's name on it as her special part of the chapel.

I think your suggestion of a meeting of the committee by itself is just right, and I will ask Mr. Collens to send on the tabulated statement of the results of the new bids, so that we can consider them together, calling him in later if necessary. I do not see how we can do this much before October 20th. Rogers could not get his bid in next week, and the week following I have to be in Providence and New York most of the week.

There is only one thing about the proposition to have Mr. Lyman build the chapel which troubles me and I am going to tell you frankly. He told you that he would not want the architect "fussing around" and that he would want to change the plans some. Now I would as soon trust Lyman

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as Collens in any matter affecting the strength or permanence of the building, but I would want the architects to have their way entirely in all matters affecting the appearance, finish, and artistic qualities of the chapel. That is how they earn their commission and we throw it away unless we follow their plans in these respects. I presume there would be no difficulty in arranging this matter with Mr. Lyman, but I think it ought to be plainly understood at the start that we would expect the architect to supervise the work, especially on the artistic side.

I did not get anything definite out of Mr. Partridge but tried to fix things so that their new figures to the men now bidding would be lower than the old ones.

Faithfully yours,